Offices to be placed under the existing Head Post Offices and the proposed Head Post Office is not less than 20 each.

A Head Post Office can also be created in a district if there are 20 Sub Post Offices in that district to be placed under the account jurisdication of the proposed Head Post Office.

In hilly and backward areas, the norms can be relaxed if there is an appreciable advantage in financing the Post Offices by upgradation of a Sub Post Office into a Head Post Office.

Improving Directory Information Service in Andhra Pradesh

3348. SHRI YERRA .NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directory information service in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh is of dismal standard;

(b) whether any monitoring has been done of the level of service rendered by the telecom department in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh telecom propose to improve operator response services in' rural areas; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. There are 22 SSAs in Andhra Pradesh Circle. Computerisation of Directory information service has been taken in 14 SSAs so far. For the balance SSAs also computerisation will be completed progressively. This will improve directory information service significantly in the SSAs including rural areas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is planned to further improve the services during 1997-98 by:—

(i) Augmenting the number of Circuits.

(ii) Replacing overhead medium by stable medium.

(iii) Computerising the Directory Information Service.

Hike in the Tariff of Telephone Calls

3349. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a new tariff has been fixed by the Department of Telephones for a call from a fixed to a mobile telephone;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the date from the tariff is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the reasons for this hike in the tariff?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copy of the order is enclosed as statement. *(See* below).

(c) Implemented from 15.2.97. However, TRAI recently issued directions which are under examination.

(d) The tariff for fixed to mobile calls in Telecom Circles was fixed for the first time. Since there was no tariff earlier for this service, question of hike in tariff does not arise.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications

20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi-110001 Dated the 29th Jan., 1997 No. 106-21/96-PHC

To

All GGMs Telecom CirclesTelephone Distts.
CGM, MTNL, New Delhtftfumbai.